

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page ⁸~~7~~, lines ^{13 19}~~10-13~~, with the following amended version thereof, wherein the deletion is shown with a strikethrough:

A1

A communication service module generates messages to be transmitted in response to client activity and passes incoming messages to a virtual NIC driver. ~~The communication service module is generally responsible for the receiving and transmitting of all network data to and from the client host over the communications backbone.~~

Please replace the paragraph starting on page ^{17 19}~~16~~, line ^{18 9}~~14~~ and ending on page ^{18 9}~~17~~, line ⁹~~2~~ with the following amended version thereof, wherein the deletions are shown with strikethrough and additions are shown with underline:

A2

A plurality of PNCs, including VNG system 70, is shown in the network diagram 100B of FIG. 1C. Preferably, the VNG system 70 includes at least one VNG data packet switch server 20, a central data storage device 24, a web server 22 hosting a web site, a middle - tier ~~tear~~-data access and security management device 23 and a run time ~~in~~ memory data repository 26. As will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, more or less servers and data storage devices may be used and, if pluralities of servers and data storage devices are used, they may be physically co-located or remote to each other. VNG system 70 is accessible by a plurality of electronic devices over a commonly available shared backbone 10. The communication links that provide access by the clients to VNG system 70 may include satellite, telephone, cable, as examples, or other known types of communication links. The electronic devices (or clients) may include any known network enabled wired or wireless devices, such as personal computers, pagers, cellular telephones, personal digital assistants, peripheral devices, application servers, and so on.

Please replace the paragraph on page 17, lines 3-12 with the following amended version thereof, wherein the deletions are shown with strikethrough and additions are shown with underline:

A3

Data storage device 24 includes a system database 24A for holding system information, such as all user, workgroup, and network attributes, general control information, log data, and billing

A3

information. In the preferred form, data storage device 24 also includes the central data behind all the PNC server's operational logic, serving as the data repository for all of the PNC server building blocks (e.g. the provisioning web server device 22, the data packet switch server device 20 and the data access and security management service 23). An account database 24B stores account, registration and billing information related to the users. A run time ~~in~~ memory data repository 26 is available for the VNG's data switch server 20 holding information related to the real time data packet switching (workgroup configuration and attributes, clients states, etc).
